A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE THEME OF PATRIOTISM IN THE SELECTED NOVELS OF R. K. NARAYAN, K. A. ABBAS AND MANOHAR MALGONKAR

SYNOPSIS

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Introduction:

Patriotism is an idea, the feeling of love, devotion, and sense of attachment to one's country. Patriotism is a concept, one group of people lives in a particular land and govern themselves, free from outside interference and also free from brutal laws of non-natives. Patriotism is an attachment can be a combination of many different feelings, language relating to one's own homeland, including ethnic, cultural, political or historical aspects. The English word 'Patriot' derived from "Compatriot," in the 1590s, from Middle French "Patriote" in the 15th century. The French word's "Compatriote" and "Patriote" originated directly from Late Latin Patriota "fellow-countryman" in the 6th century. From Greek Patriotes "fellow countryman," from Patrios "of one's fathers," Patris "fatherland." The term Patriot was "applied to barbarians who were perceived to be either uncivilized or primitive who had only a common Patris or fatherland." The original European meaning of Patriots applied to anyone who was a fellow countryman originated from that country regardless of the social-economic status. The scholars frequently place the beginning of patriotism in the late 18th century or early 19th century with the American declaration of independence or with the French revolution. In the histories of patriotism, the French revolution (1789) is seen as an important starting point, not only for its impact on French patriotism, but even more for its impact on German and Italian as well as on European intellectuals.

George Orwell, in his influential essay Notes on Nationalism distinguished patriotism from the related concept of nationalism:

By 'patriotism' I mean devotion to a particular place and a particular way of life, which one believes to be the best in the world but has no wish to force upon other people. Patriotism is of its nature defensive, both militarily and culturally. Nationalism, on the other hand, is inseparable from the desire for power. The abiding purpose of every nationalist is to secure more power and more prestige, not for himself but for the nation or other unit in which he has chosen to sink his own individuality. Rousseau and Voltaire, whose ideas influenced the French revolution. The impact of American and French revolution, India had started revolution against the British rule, who had been governing India since 1600s. But the real revolution had started in India from 1857, after failed this revolution, many of revolutionaries (like Mahatma Gandhi, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Lala Lachpat Ray, Sardar Bhagat Singh, Mahatma Phule) again started revolution against this brutal rules of British empire. With this, many movements also had started to fire of patriotism in the hearts of Indian people. Some of Indian writers who also portrait the picture of brutal laws of British in their novels, e.g. A Passage to India by E. M. Forster in 1924, Rabindranath Tagore's Nationalism (1917) ,To Youth by Sardar Bhagat Singh (1925) , R. K. Narayan's *Waiting for the Mahatma, Vendor of Sweets,* Manohar Malgonkar's *The Devil's Wind, A Bend in the Ganges* , K. A. Abbas' *Tomorrow Is Ours*! , *Inqilab*.

The title of the Research Study:

"The comparative study of the themes of patriotism in the selected novels of R. K. Narayan, K. A. Abbas and Manohar Malgonkar".

R. K. Narayan's *Waiting for the Mahatma, Vendor of Sweets, Manohar Malgonkar's The Devil's Wind, A Bend in the Ganges,* K. A. Abbas' *Tomorrow Is Ours!* Inqilab, are the subject of research, in which try to find out the difference and comparative study of above novels. R. K. Narayan who has used fictional characters but these characters play a vital role to understand patriotism. The love of Bharati for India is greater than her love for Sriram. Normally there should have been a conflict in her mind between these two alternatives. But in the novel there is no such clash because for Bharati lovefor Sriram can come only after her love of India is fulfilled. That necessitates the introduction of a character who can embody that principle of the Nation. Hence the presence of Mahatma Gandhi. Once Gandhi is introduced as a character in the novel, not marginally by centrally important to the theme, it becomes necessary for a critic to trace the emotion embodied in the Mahatma. But Narayan has not made of Gandhi, either. As a matter of fact, Gandhi as a character mixes unobtrusively into the plot of the novel not as a fictional character but as one who is known to all ofhis contemporaries in real life. Vendor of Sweets is also a patriotic novel but here will study comparatively, with Manohar Malgonkar and K. A. Abbas.

The Hypothesis and Present Need for the Research:

Many writers who have written on patriotism such as "An Era of Darkness " by Shashi Tharur, "Ananda math" by Bakimchandra Chatterjee and B. K. Roy., Gora by Rabindranath Tagore, Godan, by Premchand, Train to Pakistan by Khushwant Singh, Kantapura by Raja Rao. Yet much attention is still required from patriotic points of view. Keeping in this mind the researcher comes to the hypothesis that it will be interesting to note the cultural, historical, traditional, aspects are related with each other. There are many forms of showing patriotism through our dedication of work, culture, traditional and so on so forth. Every author can see patriotism in his own perspective, in case with R. K. Narayan, K. A. Abbas, and Manohar Malgonkar, they have different levels of understanding about patriotism. Here, certainly two types of patriotism which we can see, one is radical patriotism (e.g. Lokmanya Tilak, Subhash Chandra Bose, Sardar Bhagat Singh) and anotheris soft patriotism (e.g. Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Nehru, Dr. Ambedkar).

Aims and Objectives:

Literature is the intellectual mirror that reflects human responses towards nature, society and life. Because of that, it becomes so valuable that a researcher gets a chance to participate in intellectual quest in the writings of well-known writers like R.K. Narayan, K.A. Abbas, and Manohar Malgonkar

The purpose of the present study is

1) To study new aspects of patriotism in the comparative manner in the select novels.

2) To study the patriotism in authors points of view and find out different shades in their writings.

3) To bring the clarity and its conception of human relationship with nation, in the writings of R.K. Narayan, K.A. Abbas, Manohar Malgonkar.

4) To refine the understanding of patriotism in different points of view.

5) To trace the causes and effects of society on patriotism, and suggest remedy over it.

6) To find out new concept of patriotism.

7) To find out social, cultural, gender's effect on patriotism.

This work is hopefully expected to be a useful literary guide for Indian students.

Nature and Scope of the Study: The conceptual framework

The study throws light on the concept of patriotism. It also focusses on the gender, cultural , nationalism, tradition. The works of R. K Narayan, Manohar Malgonkar, K.A. Abbas' can be appliedto an international level to any texts, because their works encourage understanding the nature of a human, who have caught, reader's attention and described beautifully on the patriotism. It is also focus on how patriotism rooted in rural places and as well as in illiterate people. Patriotism has also forwarded in forms of movie, newspaper, articles, novels. The novels of R. K. Narayan in Waiting for the Mahatma Narayan takes the risk of introducing Mahatma Gandhi as a character. The Mahatma belongs to the class of the extraordinary while the ordinary and average are Narayan's forte. The Mahatma's humanity and compassion are stressed; he is seen as the living embodiment of the veryessence of renunciation—ideal sainthood. Living in the midst of people whose joys and sorrows he shares, he also cultivates at the same time an inner calm. Narayan's The Vendor of Sweets is largely considered and praised for its theme- the theme of generation gap between the people of second and third generation, between traditionalism and modernism. This theme of generation gap is represented through Jagan and Mali, the two central characters of the novel. In Inqilab, K.A. Abbas presents Gandhi as a votary of Hindu-Muslim unity with his unflinching faith in the oneness of religion and as an apostle of non-violence. Abbas' another novel 'Tomorrow is Ours, it is also focus on freedom and historical points of view. The Devil's Wind is a historical novel by Manohar Malgonkar that tells the story of Nana Saheb, the heir of the last Peshwa of the Maratha Confederacy, who played a leading role in the 1857 War of Independence. It provides a sympathetic portrait of a man whom the British portrayed as a great villain, and is based on historical sources as far as possible. Manohar Malgonkar's A Bend in the Ganges exquisitely depicts the personal views of the people and partition events happened during independence. The novel presents the history of Independence movement and thePartition of India starting with 1930s and extending till the independence in August 1947.

The novels of the above writers have made an important contribution in Indian Literature, by portraying the confident, brevity, patriotism, movements, gender, marriage, tradition, culture. This proposed research study deals with only select novels of R.K. Narayan, Manohar Malgonkar, K. A. Abbas.

The Research Design and Methodology:

The tentative research design i.e. general chapter scheme of the research study is as follows.

1) Chapter 1: Introduction

2) Chapter 2: Contribution of R. K. Narayan, K. A. Abbas and Manohar Malgonkar to Indian novels inEnglish

3) Chapter 3: Indian people in cultural, traditional, patriotic context in the novels of R. K. Narayan, KA. Abbas, Manohar Malgonkar.

4). Chapter 4: Patriotism in the context of common people in the novels of R.K. Narayan, K.A. Abbas, Manohar Malgonkar.

5) Chapter 5: Conclusion
Bibliography

Methodology:

The research intends to follow descriptive, exploratory. Interpretive and analytical methods supported by inductive and deductive modes of thinking and critical opinions of the critics. The procedure adopted in the content analysis and description is of both intra-texual and inter texual nature. By following the method of close texual comments, this study investigates the types of viewthe individual writer projected in their novels.

Since the topic is related to literature, particularly the novels, it reflects the society, culture, patriotism, identity and tradition. The novels of Manohar Malgonkar, R. K. Narayan, K. A. Abbas areno exception to it. Selected novels will be critically, comparatively, analytical, evaluated and interpreted with critical opinion of the early research studies. Patriotism or nationalism is the main theme of the select novels. The characters of the overall novels played vital role in patriotic sense.

Literature Review:

The novels which have been selected for the research are Waiting for the Mahatma, Vendor of Sweets, Inqilab, Tomorrow Is Ours, The Devil's Wind, A Bend in the Ganges are mostly looked at from the lens of patriotism and nationalism. Name of the characters of these novels have different or fictional but these characters are basis on historical events. All novels have focused on patriotism and try to touch cultural, tradition, nationalist values in human life. Manohar Malgonkar has taken characters from historical points of view, but in case with R.K Narayan, chosen traditional and common people for his novels. The beauty of the novels certainly lies in their unique presentation in which they try to present conflicting situation or event to show importance of patriotism for binding nation in a role. Hopefully, the research study will be a great contribution to depict multiple faces, role played by characters through these novels.

Conclusion

R. K. Narayan, K. A. Abbas, Manohar Malgonkar are important writers to development the notion ofpatriotism. All novel of these writers have focused on human relationship with patriotism. Text of their novels have depicted picture of nationalism, culture, problems of gender, traditional values. InManohar Malgonkar's novel, A Bend in the Ganges, The Swadeshi movement was a self-reliable movement that was the part of the Indian independence movement and contributed to the development of Indian nationalism or patriotism, this is important point in this novel. At the same time other movement were, like Homrule movement, Indian Independence movement, Quit India movement, etc.

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